

We claim:

1. A drive device for a conveyor, said drive device comprising
a drive member (12) with a plurality of engaging elements (12b) arranged on the drive member with a predetermined engaging element spacing (t1);
a flexible conveying member (14) with a plurality of counter elements (14b) arranged on the conveying member (14) with a predetermined counter element spacing (t2), so that said engaging elements (12b) of the drive member (12) are arranged to engage with the counter elements (14b) of the conveying member (14) so that the conveying member is driven with the drive member;
wherein the engaging element spacing (t1) of the engaging elements (12b) on the drive member (12) is larger than the counter element spacing (t2) of the counter elements (14b) of the conveying member (14).
2. The drive device as defined in claim 1, wherein a distance (b1) between two successive ones of said engaging elements (12b) is larger than a width (b2) between adjacent ones of said counter elements (14b) of the conveying member (14), as measured in a conveying direction (F) of the conveying member.
3. The drive device as defined in claim 1, wherein a ratio of said engaging element spacing (t1) of the drive member (12) to said counter element spacing (t2) of the conveying member (14) is between about 1.01 and about 1.10.

4. The drive device as defined in claim 3, wherein said ratio is 1.05.
5. The drive device as defined in claim 1, wherein said drive member is a drive wheel.
6. The drive device as defined in claim 1, wherein said conveying member is a flexible conveyor chain.